The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and official interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1575 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 1941 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 31, NO. 25

FACING *the* FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

Hazardous as it may appear, we are going to take a fling at predicting the new Communist Party line in this country now that Jumping Joe Stalin is getting kicked in the face by Hitler. We don't think we are getting too far out on a limb with this forecast because it is the logical thing for the Commies to be illogical. Anyway, here is our slant on the new Red program for America:

1—Immediate American intervention in the war.

2—Enactment of a law forbidding strikes.

3—A 10-hour work day and a 6-day week.

Before you start asking how come, we'll do it ourselves. Up until now the Communist Party has been the leader in the phony "peace" front. It has organized dozens of peace societies in the American Youth Congress nation. It has denounced British imperialism. It has opposed aid to Britain. It has branded the European war as "imperialistic." But that was while Jumping Joe was Adolph's pal. Now it's a different story altogether. Now the war is a peoples' war for democracy. Now Great Britain is Soviet Russia's involuntary ally. Now the war is a holy crusade. Now, at last, Hitler is the arch-enemy.

So much for principles. Next comes action. Up until now the Communists have openly and secretly encouraged and fomented strikes of all sorts to impede the national defense program. Taking advantage of their strategic position within the CIO, they have sought to tie up production of vital defense materials wherever they could.

Death to Strikers

But what now? Now it's an entirely different story. Now we may expect the Communists to join with Congressmen like Carl Vinson and Clare Hoffman and even outdo them as reactionaries in thinking up compulsory work legislation. All Vinson suggested was to put working men and women in jail if they exercised their rights as free American citizens to refuse to work under conditions that appeared to them intolerable. But we may count on the Commies to go a lot further. We can confidently expect them to take up the cry of that unfortunate Congressman who was carried away by his own oratory a few weeks ago and recommended the electric chair for strikers. Why not? Isn't that the policy in Soviet Russia? Aren't workers in that country who fail to put out of the party's grass for one thing or another subject to execution? Why not do the same thing here?

Finally, the Communists are unquestionably going to start a drive to abolish the 5-day week and the 8-day week. For this they have ample precedent in Jumping Joe's own ballyard. There the work-day was extended to twelve hours long ago. It wasn't done by collective bargaining. It was done by edict. The defense program of the Soviets was not proceeding rapidly enough. So Dictator Stalin just issued orders abolishing the eight hour day. Very simple, indeed. Very simple, anyway, for the Communists in this country. But what about all the fine speeches by Communist orators about how they proposed to improve the conditions of American workers? Well, that was before Soviet Russia was endangered.

Will We Crawl?

All of this, if it happens as we think it will, ought to be quite educational to the American people and to American workers, especially.

We don't believe the American workers will take the Communists' sudden conversion to democracy too seriously. We don't believe they will want to clasp Jumping Joe's disciples to their hearts as blood brothers. After all, we must remember that Russia is helping Germany through choice. The war was forced upon them by Hitler. For years Stalin has tried to appease Hitler even more than the Munichmen of the democracies have professed to despise. Stalin not only compromised with Hitler; he helped him. Stalin signed a trade treaty and a non-aggression pact with Hitler. He gave Germany vital supplies, food and oil which enabled it to withstand the blockade. He collaborated with Hitler in dividing up Poland and Rumania. It was only when Hitler decided the partnership was not as profitable for him as a monopoly would be that the Communist dictator got anything worse than the Nazis got. It was only when the Communists had war forced upon them that they decided to fight Hitlerism.

The question now before our country is whether we can afford to crawl as the Communists crawl. Are we going to scrap our principles and make common cause with Jumping Joe Stalin?

The answer must be an emphatic NO! So far as we're concerned let Stalin and Hitler fight each other groggy. So far as we're concerned their quarrel is a break. It will give us more time to build up our own defense and rush greater aid to Great Britain which will then be in a better position to resist the aggressors.

AFL Victorious As NLRB Reverses Old Ruling In Longshoremen's Case

Washington, D. C. — Climaxing with victory a three-year fight by the American Federation of Labor for the democratic rights of American workers, the National Labor Relations Board reversed its infamous decision in the West Coast Longshoremen's case.

Under the Board's new ruling, a majority of the longshoremen in the ports of Tacoma, Port Angeles and Anacortes will be permitted to decide for themselves whether they shall have separate bargaining units or be included in a single coast-wide unit.

Under the Board's previous ruling these ports, all members of the International Longshoremen's Association of the American Federation of Labor and Anacortes, voted against their will a coast-wide unit and be represented in collective bargaining by Harry Bridges, CIO Commissar of the West Coast.

For three years the American Federation of Labor has fought against this unfair Labor Board decision up and down the land, in the courts, before Congress and before the Labor Board itself. It pressed for amendments to the National Labor Relations Act to prevent such abuses in the future and it campaigned for the democratic rights of the members of the Labor Board who were responsible for the original decision.

The final strategy ultimately proved effective. The two new members of the Board, Gerard D. Reilly and Dr. M. Leiserson voted for the new ruling. Edwin S. Smith dissented. His term expires this August and he is unlikely to be reappointed.

The Bridges unit, according to the new majority decision, never had any members in Tacoma, Port Angeles and Anacortes. The Board has insisted that the coast-wide unit was "the only unit in which self-organization has been effective," the only unit in which the longshoremen can bargain on a basis of equality with the employers."

The majority decision stressed that the workers in these ports themselves and not those of "experts" who testified at the hearings had been taken into account. Elections in the three ports are to be held within thirty days. The A. F. of L. longshoremen may vote if they like to be combined with the CIO unit in the other ports, but if they vote for the A. F. of L. the NLRB will designate their own union as their bargaining agency.

"Since the split between the I. L. A. and the I. L. W. U. in 1937, the longshoremen in Tacoma, Port Angeles and Anacortes have functioned as a part of the coast-wide organization of longshoremen," the majority decision said, "and have never voluntarily participated in collective bargaining within the Columbia area. They have maintained their own organizations, and, although they were invited to send delegates to the 1938 I. L. W. U. convention, they have not served nor been asked to serve on the negotiating committees which negotiated the last two coast-wide contracts. They have had no voice in the modification, approval, or rejection of those contracts.

"In important particulars, they have continued to exist as units apart from the rest of the organized longshoremen on the Pacific coast; they have maintained their own representatives on the port labor relations committees and have negotiated with the employers concerning all grievances arising over local working conditions.

"In some instances, where their resolution of grievances has been inflicted with the results reached by coast-wide arbitration, they have refused to abide by the arbitration awards. They have continued to maintain and operate their own hiring halls and have continuously controlled the hiring and dispatching of all longshoremen in their own ports. In 1940 they resorted to strike action independently of the rest of the Coast."

It can hardly be doubted that the longshoremen at these ports have considerably benefited from the rest of the coast-wide unit. Moreover, in important respects, they have been constituted by the I. L. W. U. the employers and the arbitrators."

Bethlehem Agrees To Closed Shop; West Coast Ship Strike Nears End

San Francisco, Cal.—For the first time in the history of the Bethlehem Steel Company at its local shipyards here, agreement to sign a written contract including the closed shop.

The company acted upon recommendations of the National Defense Mediation Board which included the closed shop in its formula for settlement of the dispute between labor and the great majority of shipyard employers on the West Coast but the Bethlehem Company refused to sign it at first because of the closed shop provision.

The company's attitude provoked a strike which halted ship construction. All of the metal trades unions, except one machinists' local, were prevailed upon to go back to work on the pledge of the National Defense Mediation Board to bring about a fair settlement.

Now that the Bethlehem Company has agreed to sign the master agreement, it appeared likely that the machinists may also come to terms.

In making its recommendation for the closed shop, the defense mediation board explained:

"The Pacific Coast master agreement was the result of years of collective bargaining on an industry-wide basis. The weight of the company's opposition to the closed shop was overborne, in the opinion of the board, by the fact that the master agreement was arrived at by industry-wide collective bargaining and accepted and put into effect throughout the entire industry, with the exception of the Bethlehem plant.

"Under these special circumstances, the board recommends that the master agreement be accepted and signed by the Bethlehem Steel Company."

AFL Wins Close Harvester Election; Runoff To Decide McCormick Plant

Chicago, Ill.—The American Federation of Labor won a hotly contested Labor Board election among employes of the International Harvester Company with a total vote of 8,044 to 7,622 for the CIO.

As separate elections were held, however, in the company's six plants the results were not entirely decisive. The American Federation of Labor won clear majorities in the Milwaukee and Chicago plants but CIO eked out bare majorities in the West Pullman and East Moline plants. The vote was so close in the McCormick plant that a runoff election probably will have to be held to decide the winner. In the Rock Falls plant nine challenged ballots will decide whether the union or the company won by a majority of one vote or the total votes cast for the contending unions.

In all of the plants only a scattering few votes were cast against the unions.

Leaders of the American Federation of Labor's organizing drive declared they will request the board to win the runoff election at the West Pullman and East Moline plants. The vote was so close in the McCormick plant that a runoff election probably will have to be held to settle it.

Results of the election:

	AFL	CIO	Neither
Chicago	2,671	2,632	206
Rock Falls	1,015	1,007	9
East Moline	1,191	1,220	10
West Pullman	1,167	1,163	1
Total	6,044	7,022	226

Union Wins Long Leviton Strike; Improves Pay And Work Conditions

Brooklyn, N. Y.—The Leviton strike is settled. The strikers won. After nearly six months of idleness, during which they endured the most intense kind of hardship, they attained a $15.00 minimum wage, 10 per cent wage increase for employes not affected by the new minimum. This means a 25 per cent wage increase for about half the company's 1600 employes.

Under the agreement, Local 3, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL, is named as the sole collective bargaining agent, by the Leviton Manufacturing company. A grievance committee is to be set up under the contract, which runs for one year, to handle the day-to-day complaints and problems between employer and employe. After one year's employment, the employes in low-paid positions will be advanced to better jobs whenever they are available. There will be no charged for broken material, nor will they lose pay if they have to wait half a day for work. Time-and-a-half will be paid for overtime.

There will be no more arbitrary reductions of piece-work rates.

Presiding Justice Edward Lazansky of the Appellate Division, who helped bring about the settlement, will be an impartial arbiter during the term of the agreement and will decide all problems that cannot otherwise be settled.

AFL Triumph Seen as NLRB Orders Vote of N. Y. Times Editorial Staff

Washington, D. C.—An election "as soon as possible within thirty days" among employes in the editorial and news departments of The New York Times was ordered by the National Labor Relations Board.

Employes will determine in the balloting whether they wish to be represented by the American Newspaper Writers Association, Federal Local 22,027 of the A. F. L., or by the Newspaper Guild of New York, a CIO affiliate, or by neither.

The election was ordered on the basis of the Guild's contention that an appropriate unit should consist of all employes, excluding only executives, their confidential secretaries and employes such as telephone operators, who are already within the jurisdiction of existing craft unions. The board split two to one on this unit question.

The American Newspaper Writers Association contended that the appropriate unit of employes for voting consisted of "a quasi-professional or craft group, editors, reporters, writers and the like, excluding photographers and messengers and office boys, librarians and the like."

A majority of the board, consisting of Chairman H. A. Millis and Edwin S. Smith, rejected the association's proposal. Dr. W. M. Leiserson dissented.

Officers of the American Newspaper Writers Association predicted a sweeping victory for the A. F. L. unit or the election despite the broad unit ordered by the board. They said that the employes of the New York Times would overwhelmingly reject the discredited Communist leadership of the Guild.

WOLL, BEVIN TO TALK ACROSS THE OCEAN

Matthew Woll, Vice-President of the A. F. of L. and Chairman of the American Labor Committee to Aid British Labor announced that arrangements have been completed for a two-way broadcast over radiotelephone facilities of the Columbia Broadcasting System between New York and London, July 8th, 10:15 P. M.

Mr. Woll and Mr. Bevin, Minister of Labor in the British Cabinet will discuss the present situation via short wave which will be rebroadcast over the Columbia network. Mr. Woll will also detail the situation in London as it affects the British population in London, and the progress being made by the American Labor Committee to Aid British Labor in its drive to alleviate conditions for the war sufferers.

The Committee urges all city Aid British Labor Committees and Central Labor bodies to arrange with their local C. B. S. Stations to carry the broadcast.

BRITISH UNEMPLOYED CUT BY 500,000

London, England—The number of workers registered at British employment exchanges on May 12 was nearly 800,000 fewer than on May 12, 1940, and almost 50,000 fewer than on April 21 of this year.

Those temporarily idle fell from 102,750 in May, 1940, to 60,344 last month. An increase among temporarily unemployed women resulted from the delay in getting them in jobs under the concentration scheme.

PRESIDENT NAMES DAVIS TO SUCCEED DR. DYKSTRA

Washington, June 21.—President Roosevelt selected William H. Davis to succeed Dr. Clarence A. Dykstra as chairman of the National Defense Mediation Board. The latter retired to resume his post as President of the University of Wisconsin.

Mr. Davis, former chairman of the New York War Labor Board, has been praised by employers and employes for the skill with which he has handled labor disputes.

His appointment had been expected since Mr. Dykstra's decision to retire was announced.

BRITISH SOCIAL SECURITY PLANNED AFTER WAR

London, England—With the announcement of the appointment of Sir William Beveridge, well known economist, as the head of an Interdepartmental Minister without portfolio. The committee will review all private and public organizations of social insurance covering unemployment, old age, workmen's compensation etc. with a view to weaving them into a comprehensive unified improved scheme and possibly the constitution of a central social security department.

Green and Meany Assail Vinson Bill; Tobin Urges Sacrifices for Defense

Meany Cites War and Navy Records Proving Full AFL Defense Cooperation

Washington, D. C.—In a nation-wide radio address, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany cited the official records of the War and Navy Departments as proof of the fine cooperation of labor in the national defense program as evidence that repressive labor legislation, such as the Vinson Bill, is wholly unnecessary.

Speaking over a nation-wide radio hookup under the auspices of the Cincinnati Fight for Freedom Committee, Mr. Tobin declared that British workers, in the name of democracy, are sacrificing everything they have in the fight to defend Hitlerism. He added:

"The workers of the United States, as I understand them—and I think I know their feelings and desires—are ready and willing to make the same sacrifice as the British Workers, if called upon to do so; and although the organized and unorganized workers are honeycombed with agents of foreign nations who are creating disturbances, for the name of the beautiful colors of America pledge themselves, by my analysis of their feelings, to defend the nation and the ideal of democracy and justice, anywhere in the world, if called upon by the powers of our government, in whom, hands are placed the awful responsibility of the preservation of our nation.

Because we realize the dark hour in which we are placed because we know that the leaders of our government are endeavoring to protect our country, we repeat our promise to make any sacrifice called upon, and we ask our associate Americans, in the name of common humanity, much as we detest and despise and abhor the word "war"; to join with us and to make similar sacrifices if necessary, to the end that we preserve those rights which are guaranteed us by the blood of the men who have gone before us in our country—that flag in the corner of which guarantees us free ourselves and to conduct ourselves in a manner in accordance with the laws of our country and the rights guaranteed to us by our Constitution under which our democratic form of government functions and shall continue to function, that the world brighter and better for all of the peoples of the world."

Tobin Cites British Example Of Workers Who Have Given All for Defense

Cincinnati, O.—Daniel J. Tobin, President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, called upon all American workers to make sacrifices for the cause of democracy and justice.

Speaking over a nation-wide radio hookup under the auspices of the Cincinnati Fight for Freedom Committee, Mr. Tobin declared that British workers, in the name of democracy, are sacrificing everything they have in the fight to defend Hitlerism. He added:

"The workers of the United States, as I understand them—and I think I know their feelings and desires—are ready and willing to make the same sacrifice as the British Workers, if called upon to do so; and although the organized and unorganized workers are honeycombed with agents of foreign nations who are creating disturbances, for the name of the beautiful colors of America pledge themselves, by my analysis of their feelings, to defend the nation and the ideal of democracy and justice, anywhere in the world, if called upon by the powers of our government, in whom, hands are placed the awful responsibility of the preservation of our nation.

"Let us take a look at the War Department's and the Navy Department's building construction programs in which, as everybody knows, the workers involved have been A. F. of L. members. Secretary of War Stimson recently issued a very interesting report. This report dealt with the $1,200,000,000 cantonment construction program of the War Department. Did the building trades of the A. F. of L. fail to complete the cantonment construction program? The report of Secretary Stimson supplies the answer. It discloses the fact that of a total of 40,607,000 man-days worked on the cantonment program, only 14,278 man-days were lost as a result of labor difficulties.

"This percentage of delay was so small that it amounted to only .04 of one per cent.

"Is this cooperation? Of course it is. I have no desire to make invidious comparisons, but in view of the vicious attacks which have been made upon organized labor it is well for us to point out that neither industry nor labor can claim for itself a monopoly on patriotism. In this connection I may point to a record of cooperation surpassing—or, for that matter, even approaching—that of the building trades unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor which I have cited.

"On the Navy's air training station and other building construction the Navy Department has the cooperation of the Building and Construction Trades Department to record that there was only one stoppage. This was in Boston and it was ended within two days.

"Now, of course, there is much more to the defense program than just construction. There are the factories and the mills we are turning out a thousand and one different articles in enlarged quantities. In this regard the record shows that, taking all defense work from the start of the program through the end of last month, only one man-day of work has been lost due to American Federation of Labor strike for every 2,400 man-days of work performed. Translated into simple terms, that means that not that only one twenty-fourth of one per cent of defense work time was lost.

"Notwithstanding this almost 100 per cent record of avoidance of production stoppages, the American Federation of Labor is not satisfied. On May 26, immediately after President Roosevelt's declaration of an unlimited national emergency, the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor renewed its pledge to avoid strikes, to use to the full the facilities of the United States Conciliation Service and the National Defense Mediation Board and went even further than that. The Executive Council called upon every union affiliated with the American Federation of Labor to refrain for any reason whatsoever from calling a strike interfering with national defense production until full opportunity has first been given to the Conciliation Service and the Mediation Board to bring about a peaceful settlement.

"The need of the hour is for national unity. Sound management, constructive liberal government and labor, freely organized, must unite in this effort. We must work and, what is more important, we must work together.

"It is for this reason that legislation designed to punish the workers of America because of the sins of a few obstructionists is so very undesirable. Were such legislation now to go on the statute books of our country, our national unity would be torn to tatters and Adolf Hitler, without having fired a shot, would have won his greatest victory.

"Not in any narrow spirit but with the welfare of our country at heart, the American Federation of Labor urges with all emphasis that compulsory-servitude legislation ought not be and must not be enacted."

JEWELRY COMMITTEE URGES FORTY CENT MINIMUM WAGE

Washington, D. C.—The Jewelry Manufacturing Industry Committee unanimously recommended a 40-cent minimum hourly wage for the jewelry industry. It approved by Administrator Fleming of the Wage and Hour Division the recommendation will increase the wage rate of approximately 11,500 employes in the industry.

The employes section of the committee included General President Leon Williams, First Vice President A. J. Gaul, and Vice President Erwin Schlegel, of the International Jewelry Workers Union (AFL).

Green Sends Letter To All Congressmen Opposing Anti-Labor Laws

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor expressed unalterable opposition to the substitute bill which Rep. Carl Vinson, of Georgia, proposes to bring out on the floor of the House of Representatives as a substitute for his original "cooling-off" bill.

Representatives of the American Federation of Labor conferred with Rep. Vinson at his request and told him directly that his measure was highly objectionable.

President William Green sent a letter to all members of Congress informing them why the American Federation of Labor is against the Vinson Bill. He said:

"We appeal to you in the name and in behalf of the American Federation of Labor to vote against the Vinson Substitute for H. R. 4139.

"The American Federation of Labor favored and supported the creation of the National Defense Mediation Board. We have staunchly defended it, and cooperated fully with the members of the Board, as it is now constituted, in the consideration and solution of labor disputes involving problems. In addition, we pledged to the government our wholehearted support in the original construction of the national defense program. We are re-examining our pledges and carrying out our promises. As evidence of this fact, may we point out that in naval and shipbuilding projects where thousands of American Federation of Labor members are employed, construction is definitely ahead of schedule.

"The enactment of the Vinson Substitute would, we are sure, create bitter feeling and resentment among working people. The effect would be injurious." It would retard the development of our nation's defense policies. Congress, therefore, should in our opinion calmly consider the whole economic and industrial situation and the effect legislation such as is proposed in the Vinson Substitute would have upon national psychology and national unity, before voting to enact such a measure into law.

"The Vinson measure provides for the substitution of compulsory for voluntary service. Such legislation would be in direct contradiction to the Thirteenth Amendment of the Constitution, which prohibits involuntary servitude, and to our democratic processes. It would impose involuntary servitude through the creation of a so-called "cooling-off" period, and compulsory arbitration.

"First of all, the Vinson proposal provides for the creation of a Board of statutes. That means that the proposal is highly objectionable.

"Second, Section 3 of the bill empowers the chairman to determine, when any labor dispute substantially affects the national defense and cannot be expeditiously adjusted by other agencies of the government, that the provisions of the Act would practically destroy the functions of the mediation section of the Department of Labor. It is inconceivable and it is unthinkable that Congress would take away the challenge of mediation board with such broad, and practically unlimited power. It smacks of dictatorship.

"Section 5 provides for arbitration and in effect would be compulsory in character.

"Another section of the bill proposes the practical repeal of the Norris-LaGuardia Act. It confers upon the Board created in the Vinson proposal authority to go into court, secure an order or an injunction requiring the compelling parties to a labor dispute to do what the Board decides should be done, and finally states that in the pursuit of such a policy on the part of the Board the Norris-LaGuardia Act does not apply.

"The National Defense Mediation Board, now constituted, created by Executive Order, is functioning in a way which meets with general public approval. It is efficient and is rendering excellent service. Thus far, it has made a fine record. Congress will do well to leave it as it will let well enough alone and will accord to the National Defense Mediation Board, as now constituted, the widest opportunity to secure and hold the confidence of employers and employees throughout the nation, and through its establishment of a commanding influence bring about the settlement of controversies which arise between employer and employes on a fair, just and equitable basis."

TEAMSTERS FIGHT MINNEAPOLIS REDS

Drive Opens to Replace Trotskyites Chartered by CIO

Minneapolis, Minn.—The International Brotherhood of Teamsters, AFL, today launched local ranks of Trotskyite Communists, formed a powerful front to maintain their attack on the CIO now dominated by Communists.

Headquarters of Local 544 were taken over by J. M. Gorman, international Representative of the Teamsters, after a court order forced the Communists to vacate the premises and produce the books and funds of the CIO union.

From eleven surrounding States, organizers and business agents of Teamsters unions converged on Minneapolis to assist the loyal membership in their fight to reestablish here a powerful American trade union.

It immediately became apparent that the drive of the Dunn brothers and their radical leaders to swing the members of the Teamsters Union into the CIO was doomed to failure.

Telegrams and letters from all over the nation poured in on President Daniel J. Tobin, commending him for his courageous stand against the Communist and pledging him support. President Roosevelt privately denounced the CIO for engaging in strike practices at this time when national defense is the paramount consideration. Newspaper editorials throughout the nation united in condemning the CIO action.

Assisting Mr. Casey in the local AFL lineup to defeat the raid are Thomas T. Neal, of Kansas City; H. L. Wexberg, of Denver, Thomas Flynn, of Indianapolis, William Wright, of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Bill Slaughter, of Duluth and Mayor Lewis, West Coast representative of the AFL.

MACHINISTS GAINS TOP ALL - TIME RECORDS

Washington, D. C. — Smashing gains in membership, collective bargaining contracts, topping all records, were revealed by the International Association of Machinists. In the past six months, the Machinists negotiated agreements with over 1,000 employers, more than during the whole of 1940, President Harvey W. Brown announced. Nearly 500 covered plants that had hitherto been unorganized and 600 were renewals of expiring pacts.

Practically all carried wage increases, aggregating many millions of dollars annually, and brought the pay levels to an all-time high. The Machinists now have more than 6,000 employers under contracts.

KNOX MOVES TO RAISE NAVY YARD PAY RATES

Washington, D. C.—A long fight by A. F. of L. unions to win wage increases for 100,000 navy yard workers has begun to bring.

Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox, after months had contended the demands of the unions, sent a circular letter to the commandants of all the yards, notifying them that steps are being taken to overhaul wage scales.

This is being done, he said, because of widespread wage increases recently established in private shipyards and other manufacturing plants located in the vicinity of the navy yards.